Notes From The Director

I recently had the pleasure of attending the 51st Annual NPCA Convention in Austin, TX where I participated in the Technical Committee meeting. Our committee is reviewing several documents including Manhole Guide Specifications, Manhole Best Practices Manual, Seismic Guidelines for Underground Structures, and others.

Convention attendees were also updated on a number of industry issues including the status of FHWA’s response to the Buy America ruling, implementation of the OSHA crane operator certification requirements, and OSHA silica exposure rules. I will be reporting on these items at our upcoming PCANY Fall Meeting at 9:30am Tuesday, November 1 at the AGC Headquarters 10 Airline Drive, Albany.

The fall meeting will include election of officers for the 2017-2018 term. Also, we are planning an informal dinner at the Barnsider restaurant on Monday 10/31 for those who would like to come the evening before. Please let me know before Tuesday 10/25/16 if you would like to join us so that we can confirm reservations.

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.

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Park Avenue Armory, NYC “An Occupation of Loss”

Submitted by Don Raymond of Coastal Pipeline Products.

We are continuously amazed at the unique and creative uses of precast concrete that we are able to share with our readers and this one is totally unique. Eleven precast towers (essentially stacked manhole risers), each measuring 45’ tall are used to create a performance art setting that, according to artist Taryn Simon, focuses on “the anatomy of grief and the intricate systems that we devise to contend with the irrationality of the universe”.

The exhibit was on display at the Park Ave Armory from September 13-25 and is now being transported to London where it will be erected at Artangle for 2017. See article at archdaily.com.

What started out seemingly as a routine project in the planning phase became increasingly more complicated as details of texture, color, electrical conduits, and even location of form seams had to be worked out to the satisfaction of the artist. Floor loading was also a concern as the total weight of the 11 towers amounted to about 350ton.
Corrosion of Reinforcing Steel

Reprinted with permission by Ralph Verrastro, PE of Bridging Solutions, LLC

This installment of “A Bridge Moment” provides a summary of the basics on corrosion of reinforcing steel in concrete. Corrosion of reinforcing steel and other embedded metals is the leading cause of deterioration in concrete. Expansion forces are created when embedded steel corrodes because the rust that forms occupies a greater volume than the steel. The expansion forces create tensile stresses in the concrete, which can eventually cause cracking, delamination and spalling.

Steel corrodes because it is not a naturally occurring material. The production steps that transform iron ore into steel add energy to the metal. Steel is thermodynamically unstable under normal atmospheric conditions and will release energy and revert back to its natural state – iron oxide, or rust. This process is called corrosion. For corrosion to occur, there must be at least two metals (or two locations on a single metal) at different energy levels, an electrolyte and a metallic connection.

In reinforced concrete, the rebar may have many separate areas at different energy levels. Concrete acts as the electrolyte, and the metallic connection is provided by wire ties, chair supports, or the rebar itself. Our next installment will tell the rest of the story about corrosion of the embedded steel inside concrete and how to prevent or slow down the process.

Bridging Solutions, LLC is a Professional Member of PCANY. Check out our members in the PCANY Buyer’s Guide located on our website.
NPCA Highest Award Given to PCANY Member...

to Mark Thompson of Jefferson Concrete Corp, Watertown During the 51st Annual Convention in Austin, TX. The Robert E. Yoakum Award is presented annually to an individual who has made a significant contribution to furthering the mission of NPCA and to advancing the precast concrete industry. Congratulations Mark!

ABCD Eastern NY to Hold Dinner Meeting...

On Thursday 10/20/16 At the Blu Stone Bistro in Latham. Rita Serradarian, PE will be speaking on the topic of “Developing Precast Guidelines for Accelerated Bridge Construction w/NEXT Beams (information)

PCANY Fall Meetings Scheduled...

For 9:30am Tuesday, Nov 1 at AGC Headquarters 10 Airline Dr., Albany 12205. The membership meeting will include election of officers for the 2017-2018 term. Our joint meeting with NYSDOT Materials and Structures Bureaus will be in the same room beginning at 1:30pm.